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LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, on 5 January 1996, in the village of Sheshleti in the Gali region, Abkhaz boeviks brutally tortured and killed innocent civilians, Mr. Sanaia and six members of his family, including his wife, children and grandchildren.

Mr. Sanaia's two neighbours, who had come to prevent the massacre, were also executed on the spot.

The President of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, has expressed his deep concern over this tragic incident and stressed that, regrettably, such a barbaric act was carried out in the presence of international observers and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping forces.

Mr. Shevardnadze also noted that this very fact indicates their indifference towards the tragic processes under way in the region and called upon the human rights organizations to duly evaluate this unspeakable fact.

The President of Georgia has expressed his strong conviction that the incident was aimed at thwarting the peace process and at institutionalizing ethnic cleansing and genocide of Georgians in the Abkhazian region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative

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